

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03950 021524Z
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S E C R E T AMMAN 3950

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN

REF: A) AMMAN 3951, B) AMMAN 3952, C) AMMAN 3953

1. WE HAVE TAKEN A VERY CAREFUL LOOK (REFTELS) AT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE ARMS REQUEST WHICH KING HUSSEIN HAS RAISED WITH YOU AND THE PRESIDENT AT VARIOUS TIMES OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS. WE HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

- HUSSEIN FACES A PALPABLE AND GROWING THREAT IN THE AREA, ESPECIALLY FROM IRAQ AND SYRIA;
- IF THE PEACE PROCESS PROGRESSES FAR ENOUGH ALONG FOR HIM TO JOIN IN, OR IF IT FAILS OR IS FRUSTRATED, HE WILL MOST PROBABLY FACE INCREASED MILITARY DANGERS;
- HIS REQUEST FOR AID OVER THE EARLY 1980'S IS MODEST, SENSIBLE AND MODERATE, AND AMOUNTS TO SOMETHING LESS THAN A BILLION DOLLARS. IT IS CONSISTENT IN THE MAIN WITH OUR NEW ARMS CONTROL POLICY;

- WE BELIEVE THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IF THE REQUEST IS GOING TO BE MET;

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- A PROGRAM OF INCREASED AID (UP FROM DOLS 130 TO DOLS 180 MILLION) PER YEAR OVER 5-6 YEARS INCLUDING SOME ADDITIONAL ARAB UNDERWRITING OF FMS CREDIT PAYMENTS WOULD COVER HUSSEIN'S MAJOR NEEDS;

- THE U.S. RESPONSE TO HUSSEIN SHOULD BE FITTED IN WITH THE PEACE PROCESS AS A QUID PRO QUO

FOR HIS JOINING TALKS THAT SEEM TO BE GOING SOME-
WHERE, OR S A PROP TO HUSSEIN, SHOULD THE PEACE
PROCESS BE FRUSTATED OR FAIL. SOME PARTS OF THE
PROGRAM MAY BE NEEDED AS STOPGAP AID TO BCLSTER
U.S. CREDIBILITY AND JORDANIAN STABILITY AND
MODERATION EVEN IN ADVANCE OF SUFFICIENT PEACE
PROGRESS TO BRING HUSSEIN IN.

2. THE DETAILS OF OUR ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN PUT
FORWARD FOR WASHINGTON STAFF STUDY. I BELIEVE
THIS QUESTION WILL BE A CENTRAL ONE FOR HUSSEIN
AND OUR RELATIONS WITH HIM AND JORDAN IN THE
MONTHS AHEAD AND ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUING
INTEREST AND SUPPORT.
PICKERING

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